













## Extracts.

## A MYSTERY.

The river hummed with beating trees, would through its meadows green. A low, blue line of mountains showed. The open plain between.

One sharp, tall peak above them all. Clear blue the night sky.

The river of my dreams, The mountains that I sang.

No clue of memory led me on, But well the ways I knew; A feeling of familiar things, With every footstep grew.

The river would as it should wind, Their place the mountains kept; The white, torn fringes of their clouds, Were no unwelcome look.

Yet now before that river's rim, Was pressed by feet of men, Never before mine eyes had crossed, That broken mountain crest.

A presence, strange at once and known, Walked with me in the night; The skirts of sleep forgot his life, Trained himself at my side.

Was it a dim remembered dream? Or glimpse through some old P. The secret, what the mountains kept, The river never told.

But from the vision as it passed, A tender hope I drew, A dim, pleasant, as a dream of things, The thought within me grew.

That love would temper every change, And soften all surprise, And, misty with the dreams of earth, The hills of Heaven arise.

S. F. M. B. D.

## DINING: A CONVERSATIONAL PIECE.

Well, I was told off to conduct to the "factive board" one of those creatures, in whose likeness, as Comptre says, angels were made. I hate this particular one so much that I won't describe her personal peculiarities, which were regular, with the exception of one, which was irregular. We sat at a table together. I tried that woman during dinner with every subject I could think of. I dragged indelibly fancy flies of every hue and shape to and fro before her nose; but all in vain, all in vain—she wouldn't rise to anything. I talked her of love, of the drama, of poetry, of the fashions, of the royal marriages, of comic sections, of the rights of women, of female doctors—in short, I touched upon every topic of the hour. I melted into pathos; I brightened into wit. I slid delicately into compliment. I told anecdotes, I touched upon scandal. I tried everything; but nothing would do. She wouldn't say anything but a mere "Yes" or "No." Between the courses she positively mumbled bread, looking like a monkey with the toothache. She wouldn't or couldn't talk at all. It was awful.—From "Studies and Romances," by Schmit Wilson.

## EXTRAORDINARY HINDOO FESTIVAL.

The temple at Rocio Bois is about a hundred feet square, with a large dome in the centre, and ornamented with murals painted in different colours. Workmen were just engaged on the unfinished interior when I saw it. Thousands of Indians were assembled on the grounds with their yellow, pink, or scarlet robes wrapped in graceful folds around them. The men had massive gold or silver ear, nose, and finger-rings, and the women wore the same, with the addition of large necklaces, of ornate ivory, bracelets half up their arms; many of them with a blaze of jewellery in their jet black hair, twisted into the ornate ornate knots that seem de rigueur in an Indian belle's toilet, and soaked in gingham or other cloths. Some wore cross-legged in groups, others were standing, some were singing, riding on wooden horses, swinging, dancing, or with the music of a small drum, called the tom-tom, which is beaten at one end with a stick and at the other with the fingers. A large circle was formed in one part of the square, in the centre of which was an old man entirely nude. This old fellow, in his loincloth, had an altogether than a man, a resemblance. He was fully six feet high, of large frame, all skin and bone, a most pitiable-looking object. He bled a fire among large stones, and placed over it a brass kettle, in which were pieces of bark that soon ignited and emitted a pleasant odour like frankincense. Whilst the bark was burning, he took a bowl of oil, about a foot and a half long, and six inches broad, which he saturated in oil, and lighted at one end by the flame of a lamp. When it was in a blaze he placed it under his arm, and began dancing round the ring, chanting some prayers in some Hindoo tongue. Though his body was fearfully battered, he danced for an hour till the torch was extinguished. He then approached the kettle, and stirring it, he took out a handful of the ashes of the burnt bark, placed them in the palm of his left hand, and walked round the circle, holding out a plate in the right. Men, women, and children pressed forward, and all placed a copper coin in the plate, when each received a small quantity of ash, which they rubbed on their foreheads; then holding up the right hand to heaven, they repeated a prayer of thanksgiving that they had been blessed by so bold a man, raised the left hand to the chin, and remained silent for about a minute. The old man then took up a coil of rope braided in the form of a serpent, and addressed a few words to the crowd. A few minutes later, when the crowd came forward, and the old fellow uttered something, and then both set up a shout. Taking one turn round the circle, he uncoupled his rope, and began lashing the man over the head and back, bringing blood at every blow. The victim (or happy man as everyone else called him) never wincing, but stood motionless till the flagellation was over. He was then marked with ash and scarlet paint, and retired, one of the heroes of the day. Others followed, till the old man's strength was exhausted. In the vest-curt part of the ground were three houses, each about 100 feet long by 25, made of bamboo, and covered with palm-leaves. I entered one, and found it filled with a crowd of people, all in the height of Indian fashion. The new-arrivals of some of the women were as large as saucers, which did not at all inconvenience them, as they eat through them. On one side sat three Indians; their heads shaved, and hideously painted. The centre one was beating a drum, and on the right playing on a sort of organ, from which he produced three notes, while the man's instrument on the left could only give forth one melancholy squeak, and the three combined were not unlike a bagpipe. Opposite them sat, cross-legged, seven Indians. They were dressed in European costume of fine black cloth and white cravats. Some curious white umbrellas were with wings. Some were Brahmin priests, and warden of the temple. These young women entered, bowed to the priests, and passed to the back of the house, divided from the rest by a curtain. In a few minutes they re-appeared, with a small white mark in the centre of the forehead, and the paring of the hair painted scarlet. After saluting the warden of the temple, and singing the music, they sang vigorously all the time. They kept up till tired out, and then disappeared behind the screen again. I suggested visiting the other houses, but my attention was attracted by a young man about twenty years old, lying quite nude on the ground very sick, and had found that he had been very sick, and had made a vow that if he survived, he would roll

## Insurances.

## IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the current local rates of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co., Agents.

1192 Hongkong, 27th June, 1873.

## LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Underwritten having been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, are prepared to grant Marine insurances at current rates.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., Agents.

471 Hongkong, 6th March, 1868.

## OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1859.

CAPITAL, £1,000,000.

THE Underwritten having been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, are prepared to grant Marine insurances at current rates.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., Agents.

1192 Hongkong, 27th June, 1873.

## LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon the current local rates of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co., Agents.

1192 Hongkong, 27th June, 1873.

## MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Underwritten have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Fookow, Shanghai, and Hankow, and are prepared to grant insurances at current rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co., Agents.

1054 Hongkong, 15th October, 1868.

## NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM and after this date the following rates will be charged on SHORT PERIOD insurances, viz:—

Not exceeding 1 month, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 6 months and not exceeding 12 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 12 months and not exceeding 24 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 24 months and not exceeding 36 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 36 months and not exceeding 48 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 48 months and not exceeding 60 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 60 months and not exceeding 72 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 72 months and not exceeding 84 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 84 months and not exceeding 96 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 96 months and not exceeding 108 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 108 months and not exceeding 120 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 120 months and not exceeding 132 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 132 months and not exceeding 144 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 144 months and not exceeding 156 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 156 months and not exceeding 168 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 168 months and not exceeding 180 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 180 months and not exceeding 192 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 192 months and not exceeding 204 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 204 months and not exceeding 216 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 216 months and not exceeding 228 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 228 months and not exceeding 240 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 240 months and not exceeding 252 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 252 months and not exceeding 264 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 264 months and not exceeding 276 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 276 months and not exceeding 288 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 288 months and not exceeding 300 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 300 months and not exceeding 312 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 312 months and not exceeding 324 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 324 months and not exceeding 336 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 336 months and not exceeding 348 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 348 months and not exceeding 360 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 360 months and not exceeding 372 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 372 months and not exceeding 384 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 384 months and not exceeding 396 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 396 months and not exceeding 408 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 408 months and not exceeding 420 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 420 months and not exceeding 432 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 432 months and not exceeding 444 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 444 months and not exceeding 456 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 456 months and not exceeding 468 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 468 months and not exceeding 480 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 480 months and not exceeding 492 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 492 months and not exceeding 504 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 504 months and not exceeding 516 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 516 months and not exceeding 528 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 528 months and not exceeding 540 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 540 months and not exceeding 552 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 552 months and not exceeding 564 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 564 months and not exceeding 576 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 576 months and not exceeding 588 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 588 months and not exceeding 600 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 600 months and not exceeding 612 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 612 months and not exceeding 624 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 624 months and not exceeding 636 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 636 months and not exceeding 648 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 648 months and not exceeding 660 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 660 months and not exceeding 672 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 672 months and not exceeding 684 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 684 months and not exceeding 696 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 696 months and not exceeding 708 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 708 months and not exceeding 720 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 720 months and not exceeding 732 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 732 months and not exceeding 744 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 744 months and not exceeding 756 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 756 months and not exceeding 768 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 768 months and not exceeding 780 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 780 months and not exceeding 792 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 792 months and not exceeding 804 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 804 months and not exceeding 816 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 816 months and not exceeding 828 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 828 months and not exceeding 840 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 840 months and not exceeding 852 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 852 months and not exceeding 864 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 864 months and not exceeding 876 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 876 months and not exceeding 888 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 888 months and not exceeding 900 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 900 months and not exceeding 912 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 912 months and not exceeding 924 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 924 months and not exceeding 936 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 936 months and not exceeding 948 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 948 months and not exceeding 960 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 960 months and not exceeding 972 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 972 months and not exceeding 984 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 984 months and not exceeding 996 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 996 months and not exceeding 1008 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1008 months and not exceeding 1020 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1020 months and not exceeding 1032 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1032 months and not exceeding 1044 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1044 months and not exceeding 1056 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1056 months and not exceeding 1068 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1068 months and not exceeding 1080 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1080 months and not exceeding 1092 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1092 months and not exceeding 1104 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1104 months and not exceeding 1116 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1116 months and not exceeding 1128 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1128 months and not exceeding 1140 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1140 months and not exceeding 1152 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1152 months and not exceeding 1164 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1164 months and not exceeding 1176 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1176 months and not exceeding 1188 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1188 months and not exceeding 1200 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1200 months and not exceeding 1212 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1212 months and not exceeding 1224 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1224 months and not exceeding 1236 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

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Above 1260 months and not exceeding 1272 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1272 months and not exceeding 1284 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1284 months and not exceeding 1296 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1296 months and not exceeding 1308 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1308 months and not exceeding 1320 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1320 months and not exceeding 1332 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1332 months and not exceeding 1344 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1344 months and not exceeding 1356 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1356 months and not exceeding 1368 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1368 months and not exceeding 1380 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1380 months and not exceeding 1392 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1392 months and not exceeding 1404 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1404 months and not exceeding 1416 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1416 months and not exceeding 1428 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1428 months and not exceeding 1440 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1440 months and not exceeding 1452 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1452 months and not exceeding 1464 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1464 months and not exceeding 1476 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1476 months and not exceeding 1488 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1488 months and not exceeding 1500 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1500 months and not exceeding 1512 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1512 months and not exceeding 1524 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

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Above 1644 months and not exceeding 1656 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1656 months and not exceeding 1668 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1668 months and not exceeding 1680 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1680 months and not exceeding 1692 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1692 months and not exceeding 1704 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

Above 1704 months and not exceeding 1716 months, 1 per cent. do. do.

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